

Listing of All Claims

1. (Previously Presented) A medical instrument, in particular an endoscopic instrument, with an instrument shaft, a tool positioned on the distal end of the instrument shaft, and a handle, which can be secured for storage on the instrument shaft by means of a coupling element in an axial extension of the instrument shaft, wherein the handle can be secured on the instrument shaft so that it can be moved by at least three degrees of freedom with respect to the instrument shaft.
2. (Previously Presented) A medical instrument as in claim 1, wherein the coupling element is configured as a component that at least partially surrounds the instrument shaft and can be clamped together with the instrument shaft.
3. (Previously Presented) A medical instrument as in claim 1, wherein the distal end of the handle is configured as a tensioning device to receive the coupling element.
4. (Previously Presented) A medical instrument as in claim 3, wherein a pressure force can be exerted on the coupling element by the tensioning device in such a way that the coupling element at least partially surrounds the instrument shaft while clamping said instrument shaft.
5. (Previously Presented) A medical instrument as in claim 4, wherein the coupling element is configured as an essentially spherical component equipped with a penetration bore hole for the instrument shaft and the tensioning device of the handle is configured as a bearing for rotatable storage of the coupling element.

6. (Previously Presented) A medical instrument as in claim 5, wherein the coupling element configured as a spherical component has, at least one side, an aperture running from the outer perimeter to the penetration bore hole and configured in the axial direction of the instrument shaft.
7. (Previously Presented) A medical instrument as in claim 5, wherein the spherical coupling element consists of at least two spherical segments divided in the axial direction of the instrument shaft.
8. (Previously Presented) A medical instrument as in claim 7, wherein the coupling element consists of a compressible material, especially a rubber or plastic material.
9. (Previously Presented) A medical instrument as in claim 7, wherein the coupling element consists of a non-compressible material, in particular a hard synthetic or metallic material.
10. (Previously Presented) A medical instrument as claim 9, wherein the handle has two handgrips on the proximal side, so that at least one handgrip is positioned so that it can pivot around a swivel axis with respect to the other handgrip.
11. (Previously Presented) A medical instrument as in claim 10, wherein the handle can be stopped in a closed position, in which the coupling element is clamped together with the instrument shaft.
12. (Previously Presented) A medical instrument as in claim 11, wherein a stopping device is positioned on the handle to stop the handle in the closed position.
13. (Previously Presented) A medical instrument as in claim 12, wherein the stopping device is configured as a screw thread in the area of the tensioning device.

14. (Previously Presented) A medical instrument as in claim 12, wherein the stopping device is configured as an eccentric lock in the area of the tensioning device.

15. (Previously Presented) A medical instrument as in claim 14, wherein the rotatable storage of the coupling element can be restricted in the tensioning device by means of a lock pin.

16. (Previously Presented) A medical instrument as in claim 15, with a tool positioned on the distal end of the instrument shaft, which tool can be activated by the handle, wherein the tool can be activated by the handgrip of the handle, so that the handle and the tool are connected to one another by at least one power transmission device.

17. (Previously Presented) A medical instrument as in claim 16, wherein the at least one power transmission device is configured as a flexible power transmission element, in particular as a Bowden cable.

18. (Previously Presented) A medical instrument as in claim 16, wherein the at least one power transmission device is hydraulically powered.

19. (Previously Presented) A medical instrument as in claim 18, wherein, in addition to the activation of the tool by the handgrips of the handle, the tensioning device can also be activated by the handgrips of the handle.

20. (Previously Presented) A medical instrument as in claim 19, wherein the activation of the tensioning device by the handgrips of the handle can be uncoupled from the activation of the tool by the handgrips of the handle.

21. (Previously Presented) A medical instrument as in claim 20, wherein the two activation functions that can be exerted by the handgrips of the handle can be uncoupled in such a way that in the selection of one activation function the other activation function is automatically shut off.

22. (Previously Presented) A medical instrument as in claim 21, wherein a transfer device for shutting off the activation function that can be exerted by the handgrips of the handle is positioned on the handle.